

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

January 30, 2015

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



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News story #1 Walking on Thin Ice

Do you know what could happen if you were to walk on an ice covered river on a warm day? Do you go on lakes and rivers in the winter? This first story is about how the warm weather lately has made walking on the ice unsafe.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with the correct definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	unseasonably	a) A person, or group of people being taken somewhere by someone else
	dozen	b) Not firm or fixed; able to move easily
	escort	c) An amount of money that a person has to pay for breaking a law
	spokesperson	d) Not normal for the season of the year
	unstable	e) To become stuck and not able to move
	trap	f) To save someone from danger or harm
	rescue	g) Twelve
	fine	h) Someone who speaks for other people, or a group

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Calgary Fire Department's Aquatic Rescue Team – This is a team of people who respond quickly to help in emergencies in and around Calgary's lakes and rivers.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The unseasonably warm weather led to The Aquatic Rescue Team _____.	a) likely working long days on the weekend. b) having a quiet weekend at work.
2. The Aquatic Rescue Team _____ a group of five people on Saturday.	a) telephoned b) were asked to come help
3. More than 12 people were _____ the icy river.	a) taken off b) falling off
4. The fire department spokesperson said that people tend to _____ the dangers of unstable ice each year.	a) remember b) forget about
5. The fire department prefers to _____.	a) educate people about the dangers of the river b) give people fines or tickets.

Discussion: What jobs include rescuing others? What are the roles of a rescuer? Have you or anyone you know ever needed to be rescued from a dangerous situation?

News story #2 Taxi Driver Staff Room at YYC

Do you have a place you can go have lunch and take a break when you are at work or school? This second story is about a new area that has been created in the Calgary airport for taxi cab drivers to take a break.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words in the story with the synonyms. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
	prayer	a) rest chill out
	General Manager	b) worship appeal to God
	area	c) journey travel
	relax	d) GM Overseer
	trip	e) in addition extra
	more than	f) space section

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Calgary Airport Authority – The area in the airport that is responsible for making changes within the airport

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The airport will open a new building for taxi drivers soon.
2. ____ This space will give taxi drivers a place to eat and pray, while on the job.
3. ____ Whittaker is the Ground Transportation and Parking manager.
4. ____ It is likely that taxi drivers have been needing a place to relax a take a break.
5. ____ Only certain taxi companies will be able to use this building for their breaks.
6. ____ There are more than 70-hundred taxi trips that start at the airport daily.

Discussion Question: How important is it to have a place where you can relax and take a break from work in the middle of your day? Why do people need to take breaks?

News story #3 United Way's Successful Year

Do you donate money to anything or anyone? Why is it important to give money to people who do not have as much as you do? This next story is about how much money the United Way raised in Calgary last year.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
Opportunity	A good chance or position to do something positive
Campaign	Many actions that are taken in order to reach a particular goal
Resources	Useful items such as money, property, land, oil, etc.
Invest	To put money into something in hopes of increasing the value
Local	From nearby; relating to the place you live
Connect	To join two or more things together
Vulnerable	People who can be easily hurt
Flourish	To do well and be successful

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

United Way – an organization that collects donations and gives them to charities that need help

1. The man and the woman _____ on a very personal level when they went out for dinner.
2. Parents want to watch their children _____ as they grow up.
3. The politician had a successful _____ and as a result, he won the election.
4. I have been given the _____ to go to the best university in the country!
5. I only like to buy my fruit and vegetables from _____ farmers, because I like to support people in my community.
6. Children are _____ and they need to be protected and kept safe.
7. Canada has a lot of natural _____ such as trees, farmland, and other things like that.
8. I want to _____ my money into oil, because I think I will make a lot more money by doing that.

Listening Activity: Note-taking

Listen and take notes on the following details in the story. *Answers are in the appendix*

Who is involved?	
What happens?	
Where?	
When?	
Why?	

Activity: Using your notes you just took, retell the story you just heard with your partner.

Language Focus: Infinitives vs. Preposition “to”

Infinitives

Form: Infinitives are the base form of the verb and they follow “to”

e.g. to (go); to (eat); to (think); to (remember); to (clean); to (watch), etc.

Use: Even though we use verbs to create the infinitive, they don’t function as a verb. Rather, they function as a noun (person, place, or thing), an adjective (describes the noun), or an adverb (gives information about the verb or action).

Preposition “to”

The “to” in an infinitive is not to be confused with the preposition “to”, which can indicate:

- a) Movement - moving from one place to another. (e.g. I am going to your house later)
- b) Time expression (I worked from 9 am to 5 pm)

Activity - Look at the example sentences below and try to figure out the following:

1. Is “to” being used as a preposition, or with a verb to create an infinitive?
2. If it is a preposition, which meaning does it have; Movement? Or Time Expression?
3. If it is an infinitive, what is the function (noun, adverb or adjective) and what is the infinitive’s meaning? See below for an example:

Example: She says the ice could break, trapping people underneath which makes it difficult **to rescue** them”. **Infinitive – Noun (thing) – “to rescue” means the act of rescuing**

Now you try! *Answers are in the Appendix.*

1. Henke says the fire department tries to educate people about using the river safely, instead of giving out fines or tickets.
2. The unseasonably warm weather led to a busy weekend for the Calgary Fire Department's Aquatic Rescue team.
3. The United Way invests in more than 350 local programs that connect vulnerable Calgarians with the resources and opportunities to help them flourish.
4. On Saturday, they were called to the Glenmore Reservoir, where a group of five people, including some children, were on the ice, fishing.
5. He says the building will give drivers an area to come in, sit down, relax, and just take a break during the many trips they take out of YYC every day.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JANUARY 30 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of January 30 th .	0:00
Story 1	1) The unseasonably warm weather led to a busy weekend for the Calgary Fire Department's Aquatic Rescue team. On Saturday, they were called to the Glenmore Reservoir, where a group of five people, including some children, were on the ice, fishing. And yesterday, more than a dozen people were escorted off the ice in the Bow River. Fire department spokesperson Carol Henke says, "every year, people have to be reminded about the dangers of unstable ice. She says the ice could break, trapping people underneath which makes it difficult to rescue them". Henke says the fire department tries to educate people about using the river safely, instead of giving out fines or tickets.	0:07
Story 2	2) The Calgary Airport Authority has opened a new building that Taxi Drivers can use when they're waiting to pick someone up. It has a lunchroom, a bathroom and a prayer area. Shawnah Whittaker is the General Manager of Ground Transportation and Parking at the airport. He says the building will give drivers an area to come in, sit down, relax, and just take a break during the many trips they take out of YYC every day. More than 17-hundred taxi trips start at the airport every day.	1:01
Story 3	3) Way to go Calgarians! The numbers are in for the United Way's 2014 campaign. And people in this city donated 59.7 million dollars. The United Way invests in more than 350 local programs that connect vulnerable Calgarians with the resources and opportunities to help them flourish.	1:40

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
d	unseasonably	a) A person, or group of people being taken somewhere by someone else
g	dozen	b) Not firm or fixed; able to move easily
a	escort	c) An amount of money that a person has to pay for breaking a law
h	spokesperson	d) Not normal for the season of the year
b	unstable	e) To become stuck and not able to move
e	trap	f) To save someone from danger or harm
f	rescue	g) Twelve
c	fine	h) Someone who speaks for other people, or a group

Listening:

1. The unseasonably warm weather led to The Aquatic Rescue Team _____.	a) likely working long days on the weekend. b) having a quiet weekend at work.
2. The Aquatic Rescue Team _____ a group of five people on Saturday.	a) telephoned b) were asked to come help
3. More than 12 people were _____ the icy river.	a) taken off b) falling off
4. The fire department spokesperson said that people tend to _____ the dangers of unstable ice each year.	a) remember b) forget about
5. The fire department prefers to _____.	a) educate people about the dangers of the river b) give people fines or tickets.

News story 2

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
b	prayer	a) rest chill out
d	General Manager	b) worship appeal to God
f	area	c) journey

		travel
a	relax	d) GM Overseer
c	trip	e) in addition extra
e	More than	f) space section

Listening:

1. F The airport will open a new building for taxi drivers soon.
2. T This space will give taxi drivers a place to eat and pray, while on the job.
3. T Whittaker is the Ground Transportation and Parking manager.
4. T It is likely that taxi drivers have been needing a place to relax a take a break.
5. F Only certain taxi companies will be able to use this building for their breaks.
6. F There are more than 70-hundred taxi trips that start at the airport daily.

News story 3

Vocabulary:

1. The man and the woman **connected** on a very personal level when they went out for dinner.
2. Parents want to watch their children **flourish** as they grow up.
3. The politician had a successful **campaign** and as a result, he won the election.
4. I have been given the **opportunity** to go to the best university in the country!
5. I only like buy my fruit and vegetables from **local** farmers, because I like to support people in my community.
6. Children are **vulnerable** and they need to be protected and kept safe.
7. Canada has a lot of natural **resources** such as trees, farmland, and other things like that.
8. I want to **invest** my money into oil, because I think I will make a lot more money by doing that.

Listening:

Who is involved?	Calgarians and members who work for the United Way
What happens?	People in Calgary donated 59.7 million dollars last year.
Where?	Calgary

When?	Last year
Why?	Calgarians gave so much money because they are generous people, who have extra money to give. United Way helps other people to flourish because they care about helping others.

Language focus:

1. Henke says the fire department tries **to educate** people about using the river safely, instead of giving out fines or tickets. **Infinitive – Adverb – “to educate” describes what is being tried**
2. The unseasonably warm weather led **to** a busy weekend for the Calgary Fire Department's Aquatic Rescue team. **Preposition (Movement)**
3. The United Way invests in more than 350 local programs that connect vulnerable Calgarians with the resources and opportunities **to help** them flourish. **Infinitive – Noun – “to help” means the act of helping**
4. On Saturday, they were called **to** the Glenmore Reservoir, where a group of five people, including some children, were on the ice, fishing. **Preposition (Movement)**
5. He says the building will give drivers an area **to come** in, sit down, relax, and just take a break during the many trips they take out of YYC every day. **Infinitive - Adjective – “to come” describing what can be done in the area**